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Applicant: Nie et al.

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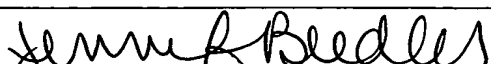
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

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Name (Print/Type)	Jennifer Beedles		
Signature		Date	November 7, 2005